

From a story for the Feb. 06 City Newsletter

Minivans, SUVs, Honda Remain Theft Targets

For most of 2005, vehicle theft reports decreased, an encouraging trend that began in 2003.

The final quarter of 2005 saw a significant increase in vehicle theft. A preliminary review of vehicle theft report reveals that the prey of choice for thieves remains the minivan and Honda models, with SUVs, trucks and police-type vehicles increasingly seen as targets.

Jan - Sept. 2005: 117 vehicle theft reports; an 11% *decrease* from 2003, 4% *less* than 2004. The final three months were a different story

Oct - Dec. 2005: 67 vehicle theft reports; an *increase* of 100% over 2003 and 76% from 2004

Most of these reports came from the eastern-most part of the City, beats **V3, X7 and X8.**

Preferred targets:

14 Dodge Caravans and Plymouth Voyagers

13 Honda Civics

10 Honda Accords

14 SUVs of varied makes and models from the Honda CRV to the Mercedes ML43
(including 6 Jeep products)

8 trucks

7 police-type vehicles (Grand Marquise and Crown Victoria)

Models that are such popular targets should use secondary security every time they are parked.

Steering wheel lock is an easily used, inexpensive option, an effective deterrent to theft,

The Police Department offers a steering wheel lock, usable on most makes and models, for \$10, a significant discount off the retail price. These locks may be purchased at the police station at any time. Persons seeking to buy one outside regular business hours should speak with the Dispatcher on duty and bring exact payment.

Most of the suspects arrested last year for vehicle theft were identified by officers on routine patrol or traffic enforcement.